[30th January 1929

Hours of meals to under-trial accused in jails.

* 1170-B Q.—Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) at what hour are the meals served to under-trial accused in His Majesty's jails;

(*b*) whether there is any rule fixing the hours;

(*c*) if so, whether that rule was observed in the case of the under-trial accused in the Trichinopoly railway strike conspiracy case;

(*d*) whether Messrs. Singaravelu Chetti and others were given meals at the appointed hour on the night of the 25th October;

(*e*) if not, when it was served and what were the reasons for departing from the usual hour; and

(*f*) whether the men concerned are consulted before making any such departure?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The hon. Member is referred to rule 347 B II (2) to (4) of the Madras Jail Manual. Information is there given of the time at which meals are served during the day to Indian prisoners in jails. This rule applies to under-trial prisoners who do not get their food from private sources—vide rule 735, Jail Manual. In the case of under-trial prisoners who get their food privately they are served as soon as it is brought to the jail.

(*c*) The rules do not apply to the under-trial prisoners in question as they were getting their food from private sources.

(*d*) & (*e*) They got the meals as soon as they were handed over at the jail, viz., 9 p.m. There was no delay on the part of the jail staff.

(*f*) The question does not arise.

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA:—"May I know, Sir, whether Comrade Singaravelu had every convenience due to the under-trial prisoners?

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Yes."

Progress of the Trichinopoly railway strike conspiracy case.

* 1170-C Q.—Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) when the enquiry in the Trichinopoly railway strike conspiracy case commenced;

(*b*) how many prosecution witnesses have been so far examined and how many remain to be examined; and

(*c*) what steps the Government have taken or propose to take to speed up examination of the witnesses?

A.—(*a*) 26th September 1928.

(*b*) One hundred and thirty-three witnesses. Twenty-two witnesses remain to be examined.

(*c*) The Government have taken and propose to take no steps in the matter.